



GSPA Calendar

Monday, Feb. 15

Postmark Deadline

Georgia Champion Journalist

Friday-Sunday,

March 5-7

SIPA Convention

Columbia, S.C.

Friday, March 5

Postmark Deadline

General Excellence

Newspaper, Broadcast,
Literary Magazine (round one)
and ALL individual entries

Friday, March 19

Postmark Deadline

Achievement Awards

Saturday, March 20

BlueJeans Broadcast Workshop

Athens, GA

Friday, March 26

Postmark Deadline

Georgia Rising Journalist

Thursday, April 29

GSPA Awards Ceremony

The Tate Center

Athens, Ga.

June 6-12

Georgia Journalism Academy

Athens, Ga.

*Schools must be a 2009-10
GSPA member to participate in
GSPA contest.*

New 'Best Journalist' Award

Juniors can earn top recognition

The Upcoming Champion Journalist Award is a new award given to the top high school junior journalist. The qualifications and recognition mirror the Champion Journalist Award for high school seniors. Prizes include a scholarship to the GSPA summer academy (June 6 – 12, 2010) and a \$100 cash prize.

Applicant qualifications:

- Must be a high school junior
- Have a 3.0 GPA on a 4.0 scale
- Plan to study journalism and pursue a career in journalism
- Participate in high school journalism for at least one year

Portfolio checklist:

- The official entry form
- Autobiographical essay on "Why I'm interested in journalism"
- Action photo of you doing something "journalistic"
- Official copy of your transcript
- Two letters of recommendation from your advisor or teachers who know your journalistic abilities.
- Sample of your work to show a diversity of reporting, writing, photography, design, etc.

- A self-addressed, padded, stamped envelope large enough to hold your portfolio, if you want it returned.

Preparing your portfolio:

- Entries should not exceed 20 one-sided or 10-two sided pages
- Plastic sheet protectors are acceptable. All letters and transcripts should be opened and included as part of the 20 pages.
- Provide judges with a good cross section of your best work. Date, name of publication and relevance should be on each sample.
- At least one issue of your publication should be enclosed to show the context of your work. Audio and/or DVDs should accompany an entry that focuses on broadcast work, and please indicate what portion should be judged.
- Photocopies of the letters, clippings and art are acceptable; however, original prints of photographs should accompany entries based on published photographs.

Entry form on page 5.

GSPA opens up Achievement Award nominations

GSPA is spotlighting achievement in several often unheralded areas with the GSPA Achievement Awards: Adviser of the Year, Administrator of the Year, Community Service, First-Year Adviser, Freedom of the Press, Perseverance, Start-Up and Turnaround.

Created four years ago, the purpose of the awards is to give recognition to those instrumental in the success of a high school publication.

Entries for the eight achievement awards will require an essay of no more than 400 words describing why the person/staff should be considered for the award. Supporting materials, such as newspaper copy, broadcast video or letters of recognition can be included but are not required.

See entry forms on pages 6 & 7.

Director's Corner



The death of the newspaper industry has been well documented. But can a high school journalism class save the professional newspaper?

A study conducted by GSPA last summer indicates this may be the case. Last summer we surveyed all 86 participants of the Georgia Journalism Academy and conducted four, eight-person focus groups to try to determine how high school students consume and view media.

The results were not surprising — and admittedly the study was limited in scope — however, the findings imply that exposure to a newspaper in high school promotes daily reading of news. More than 65 percent of students said they have a class where the newspaper is regularly used or discussed, and of those students, 60 percent said they read a newspaper at least three days out of the week. This number drops to 45 percent if students are not exposed to a newspaper in class.

Perhaps more importantly, students who are exposed to a newspaper in school are more interested in following news in general, with 64 percent saying they are either “extremely interested” or “very interested” in following news. In contrast, 48 percent of students not exposed to a newspaper in school indicated the same level of interest.

Another question asked if students regularly read their school newspaper. Of those who said “yes,” 65 percent were either “extremely” or “very” interested in following the news and 69 percent read a newspaper three or more days a week. In contrast, 52 percent of those who did not read a school newspaper (either because one is not offered or because they have no interest) indicated the same interest in following the news, and only 34 percent read a newspaper three or more days a week.

Simply stated, this study shows that consistent exposure to a newspaper in high school and the production of a high school newspaper results in students more likely to consume news and more likely to regularly read a newspaper. Unfortunately, not all high schools have student newspapers. In our study, 25 percent of students said they did not have a high school newspaper, a startling number considering this was a selective group of students with a strong interest in journalism (by the mere fact that they are attending a weeklong journalism camp). Across Georgia, 56 percent of public high schools have a high school newspaper.

These numbers should resonate with the powers-that-be in the newspaper industry. Whatever the future holds for the distribution of news (Internet, e-Readers, smartphones), the consumption habits can be formed in high school by supporting high school journalism programs, or at the minimum, promoting the use of professional newspapers in classes. Unfortunately, this comes at a time when newspapers are slashing budgets to stay afloat, and programs such as Newspapers In Education (NIE) are often the first victims. However, to develop an informed and committed future readership, newspapers should make supporting high school journalism a priority.

Joe Dennis, GSPA Director

THE BULLETIN

Editor: Joe Dennis
Contributor: Carolyn Crist, Betty Migombo

The Georgia Scholastic Press Association was founded in 1928 by the faculty of the Grady College of Journalism and Mass Communication at The University of Georgia. Membership is open to school-sponsored newspaper, yearbook, literary magazine, radio/television and online publications or productions in middle and high schools in Georgia. The GSPA Bulletin is published by the University of Georgia five times annually as a benefit of membership in the Georgia Scholastic Press Association.

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2009-10 Advisory Board

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*Want to help shape GSPA?
Join the Advisory Board.
Contact Joe Dennis at
jodennis@uga.edu for more
information.*



2008-09 GSPA Yearbook Contest

13 yearbooks garner 'superior' rating

Judging is complete in the first and second rounds of the 2008-09 GSPA General Excellence Yearbook Contest.

General Excellence winners and the All-Georgia Yearbook Award will be announced at the GSPA Awards Ceremony on Thursday, April 29 in Athens.

Results from both rounds of judging have been sent to schools with critiques from the judges. All books winning Superior ratings have been entered in the General Excellence competition.

Yearbooks were evaluated in four categories: concept and organization, coverage, photography and design, and copy. Each category represented 25 percent of the total evaluation.

This year, GSPA will again offer two deadlines to accommodate delivery dates for 2009-10 yearbooks. Books published in the 2009-10 school year can be entered in either round. Superior-rated books from both rounds will be eligible for the General Excellence competition next spring.

The postmark deadline for the first round is June 30, 2010 and is designed for yearbooks delivered in the spring. Critiques and scores from the first round will be returned in September so next year's staff can benefit from the judge's comments.

The postmark deadline for the second round is Sept. 30, 2010 and is meant for yearbooks delivered in the fall, though spring delivery books are still allowed to enter the second round. Critiques and scores from the second round will be returned in December.

Additional details of the 2009-10 GSPA Yearbook Contest will be published in a future issue of *The Bulletin* and will be available online at www.gspa.uga.edu.

Superior

The Echo, Elkins Pointe Middle School
Teleios, Mount Paran Christian School
Tiger, Dawson County High School
Chrysalis, Dunwoody High School
Phoenix, Woodward Academy
The Pride, Starr's Mill High School
Vision, Whitewater High School
Hurricane, Monroe Area High School
The Legend, Walton High School
Mnemosyne, Norhtview High School
Carpe Diem, North Forsyth High School
Wolverscenes, Union Grove High School
Panache, Pope High School

Excellent

The Webb Site, Webb Bridge Middle School
Pace Setter, Pace Academy
Conerstone, Providence Christian Academy
Kaleide, Chestatee High School
Trojan, North Hall High School
Woodland Sketches, Woodland High School
L'Espirt, Heritage High School
Windfall, Etowah High School
Panorama, Norh Cobb High School
Aplomado, Pebblebrook High School

Achievement

Ascending Heights, Osborne Middle School
The King's Academy Yearbook, The King's Academy
Gladius, Clarke Central High School
Silver Treasures, Houston County High School
Polaris, North Cobb High School

Dacula student wins First Amendment contest

By Carolyn Crist
GSPA student worker

Three high school students were selected from 66 entrants as winners in the annual First Amendment Essay Contest, sponsored by the Georgia Scholastic Press Association, the Grady College of Journalism and Mass Communication and the Cox Institute for Newspaper Management Studies.

Kylie Stackis, a senior from Dacula High School, won first place in the contest. She will be awarded a \$100 cash prize and \$100 to her school newspaper, *The Talon*.

Finishing in second place was Emily Overcarsh, a junior from Parkview High School. She will receive \$75 and \$75 for the school newspaper, *The Pantera*. Sophomore Khalilah Bruton from Lowndes High School won third place. She will receive \$50 and \$50 for the

**See the winning essays
at www.gspa.uga.edu**

school's newspaper, *The Saga*.

Stackis's essay examines the vital role the press plays during revolutionary change — particularly during World War II, the Vietnam War and the Watergate Scandal.

"Higher institutions such as churches, businesses, and schools attempt to limit this essential freedom to protect their livelihood and prevent negative exposure," she writes. "Such censure leads us to an overwhelming question: How can society fix its flaws if it refuses to recognize them?"

Overcarsh's essay investigates the history of the First Amendment as it was used in cases such as *Near v. Minnesota* and *New York Times Co. v. Sullivan*.

"In my school newspaper, the

First Amendment is the silent sponsor behind our every printed word," she writes. "While we don't carry out secret investigations or reveal political scandals, we do have an opinions section that relies on the power of the First Amendment."

Bruton writes about the First Amendment and its breadth of coverage, arguing it should apply to student publications. She understands the occasional need for prior review for student safety but objects to situations that obviously encroach on students' writing.

"For school officials to demand a review of the newspaper, just to change quotes or attributions for themselves, is unethical and wrong," she said. "While the safety of minors is extremely important, their opinions and words that they voice by means of print or broadcast is also important."

Convention unites, energizes high school journalists

Football season for the players doesn't start when school opens in the fall, it begins months before the opening game. All the sweat, broken bones, and lack of rest are all worth it when it comes to the priceless moment of a tournament game, or better yet, a championship ring. For high school journalists all across the southern region, the Southern Interscholastic Press Association Convention is their championship games.

Coming into my school's journalism program the second semester of my junior year, I had no clue what SIPA was. All I knew was that come March, the class was going to take a trip to South Carolina for a journalism convention and it was supposedly fun — little did I know how important this trip would be.

It took me only a short period of time to realize just how much work it takes to put together a school publication, and being part of an award-winning newsmagazine, the standards were only higher. We spent countless

hours at school in the journalism room working on the magazine until late hours of the evening — all for the sake of making our magazine the best it can be. So when March rolled around, it was exciting to finally go to get out of the school setting to attend the SIPA convention.

Without any doubt in my mind, it is one of the most memorable experiences of my life. The weekend was filled with activities and sessions, and our staff had so much fun with everything that we did.

There were a lot of classes on the USC campus that we had an opportunity to take. The ones I did attend taught me skills that I needed to be a better journalist. Being a newbie in my staff, that definitely helped.

The thing that SIPA continually emphasized was that although we were just in high school, the publications we produce have to be at a very high standard. We are going to be the future of journalism, so we must take that craft

For more information or to register for the 2010 SIPA Convention, visit www.sc.edu/cmciis/so/sipa/con.html

and perfect it.

That standard definitely paid off for the Odyssey Newsmagazine at the awards ceremony. Each time the name of a staff member or the magazine was called, we went nuts. It was like running a touchdown each time. Our hard work paid off.

The unity and bond we shared during that trip put a stamp on "Yes, I do belong here." Regardless of the awards that we received, as we left the parking lot of the hotel to head back home, we felt like we had a championship ring, and no one could ever take it away.

— Betty Migombo is a senior at Clarke Central High School and writes for *Odyssey Newsmagazine*.

UPCOMING CHAMPION JOURNALIST AWARD ENTRY FORM

PLEASE PRINT

Name _____

Home Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Phone (_____) _____ E-mail _____

Parent (s)/Guardian (s) Names _____

School _____

School Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Phone (_____) _____ E-mail _____

Adviser _____ Phone (_____) _____

1. Hometown Media _____ 2. _____

Street Address _____ / _____

City, State, ZIP _____ / _____

How long have you been involved in journalism? 1 year 2 years 3 years 4 years More than 4 years

Positions Held (specify type of media such as yearbook, newspaper, literary magazine, radio, TV):

Publication Name/Type	Position	Length of Time
_____	_____	From _____ To _____
_____	_____	From _____ To _____
_____	_____	From _____ To _____
_____	_____	From _____ To _____
_____	_____	From _____ To _____

Has any of your work been cited by the media? If so, when and what award? Use a separate sheet to explain.

Do you plan to enroll this year in a university journalism degree program? Yes No

What aspect of journalism and mass communication is your career goal?

List colleges you are considering in order of preference. If you have definitely decided which school you will attend, list only that college.

College	Accepted	Definitely Will Attend
1. _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Send your portfolio to: GSPA, Upcoming Journalist Award, Grady College of Journalism & Mass Communication, 120 Hooper Street, The University of Georgia, Athens, GA 30602-3018. **YOUR ENTRY MUST BE POSTMARKED BY MARCH 19, 2010.**

Media Information Form GSPA General Excellence Contest 2010

A separate media information form MUST be attached to each contest entry. Please type or print neatly.

Name of Publication or Broadcast Program: _____

School: _____ City: _____

MEDIA CATEGORY:

- Newspaper/News magazine Broadcast News Literary Magazine Yearbook

Frequency of Publication/Program: _____ per _____ Total Circulation or Audience: _____

Number of students on regular staff (not including contributors/freelancers): _____

METHOD OF PRODUCTION FOR PRINT MATERIAL:

- Commercial Printer (Printer does all from set type to layout to press run.)
- Commercial Printer
- In-School Offset Press
- In-School Office Duplication Machine
- Other (explain) _____

PRODUCTION INFORMATION FOR BROADCAST PROGRAMS:

What is the purpose of this broadcast? _____

What format do you use? _____ What is the average length of program? _____

Please describe your method of production: _____

FINANCING:

Cost per issue/program: \$ _____ Cost per year: \$ _____

Amount from school/administration: \$ _____ Amount from sales/subscription: \$ _____

Amount from advertising per year: \$ _____ Base ad rate: \$ _____ per _____

Amount from other sources (explain): \$ _____

WORK DISTRIBUTION:

Percentage of work done by students: _____ Percentage of work done by adviser: _____

Percentage of work during class: _____ Percentage of work after school hours: _____

Percentage of photos taken by students: _____ Percentage of photos taken by professionals: _____

PRIMARY SOURCE OF PRODUCTION:

- First-year journalism class Experienced journalism class Student volunteers/extracurricular

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS (Example: printer errors, etc.)

Official Entry Form

GSPA Achievement Awards

Please attach this form to your contest entry materials. Use a copy of this form for each contest you intend to enter. Individual student entries require a separate form. **Type or print neatly.**

School Name: _____

Applicant's Name: _____

Applicant's E-mail: _____

Person or Staff Being Nominated: _____

Adviser's Name (if different than applicant): _____

Adviser E-Mail: _____

Publication(s) Name: _____

School Address: _____

City: _____ State _____ ZIP: _____

School/Staff Room Phone: (_____) _____ School/Staff FAX: (_____) _____

Please indicate which achievement award to be considered (see descriptions below):

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Adviser of the Year | <input type="checkbox"/> Administrator of the Year |
| <input type="checkbox"/> First-year Adviser | <input type="checkbox"/> Community Service |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Start-up | <input type="checkbox"/> Perseverance |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Turnaround | <input type="checkbox"/> Freedom of the Press |

Please indicate what materials you are sending with this entry form:

Achievement Award Materials:

- Essay of no more than 400 words describing achievement
- Media Information Form (pg. 6)
- Examples supporting achievement (articles, publications, reference letters, etc.)

Achievement Award Descriptions:

Administrator of the Year recognizes an administrator who has demonstrated strong support for the journalism program.

Adviser of the Year recognizes a journalism adviser who goes beyond the "call of duty" in supporting his or her staff.

Community Service recognizes a staff that through its forum has initiated significant change within the community.

First-Year Adviser recognizes a new adviser who has demonstrated success and desire in strengthening the program.

Freedom of the Press recognizes a producer(s) of work that demonstrated solid reporting and/or insight, but was censored from student publication.

Perseverance recognizes a staff that has overcome significant adversity to put out a quality product.

Start-Up recognizes a first-year publication/program that has demonstrated significant quality.

Turnaround recognizes the staff that has significantly changed the quality of its product from the previous year.

There is no charge to enter GSPA Achievement Contests. All entrants must be GSPA members. Awards may not be given in a category if judges feel entries do not merit award recognition.

ACHIEVEMENT AWARD POSTMARK ENTRY DEADLINE IS MARCH 19, 2010.

Return this form with your entry form & materials to: GSPA Contests, Grady College of Journalism & Mass Communication, 120 Hooper Street, The University of Georgia, Athens, GA 30602-3018

**The Grady College of Journalism and Mass Communication
is seeking the next ...**



**The Georgia Journalism Academy
June 6-12, 2010
www.georgiajournalismacademy.com**



GSPA
GEORGIA SCHOLASTIC
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Grady College of Journalism
and Mass Communication
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POSTMARK GSPA ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS BY MARCH 19!